

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 055608
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055608

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, ASEAN

SUBJECT: WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE ON U.S. BASES IN
PHILIPPINES

REF: A) KUALA LUMPUR 900; B) JAKARTA 9721; C) KUALA LUMPUR
1496.

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN IN MARCH 10 WIRELESS FILE THE WALL
STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE QUOTING FROM AND SPECULATING ON
AMBASSADOR UNDERHILL'S LEAKED CABLE REGARDING U.S. BASES
IN PHILIPPINES (REF A). JOURNAL ARTICLE COULD CONTRIBUTE
TO FEARS BY LEADERS IN ASEAN COUNTRIES OF IMPENDING MAJOR
NEGATIVE SHIFT IN U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA.

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2. YOU WILL ALSO HAVE RECEIVED BY WIRELESS FILE TEXT OF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE HOLBROOKE'S OPENING STATE-
MENT AT HIS MARCH 10 APPEARANCE BEFORE WOLFF SUBCOMMITTEE.
SUMMARY OF Q AND A WILL FOLLOW.

4. TO COUNTERACT ANY ERRONEOUS IMPRESSIONS RE USG POLICY
TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA, SUGGEST YOU DRAW ON APPROPRIATE

PARTS OF HOLBROOKE TESTIMONY IN YOUR CONTACTS WITH SENIOR
OFFICIALS/SHOST GOVERNMENTS. LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION
WHETHER OR NOT TO SEEK SPECIAL MEETINGS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

YOU CAN ALSO CITE FACT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SPECIFI-
CALLY AFFIRMED HIS ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST IN CONTINUING
CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES IN
RECENT MESSAGE OF GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO. (IN
CITING MESSAGE, HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND
AMBASSADOR NEWSOM'S COMMENTS TO PRESS AS QUOTED REF B.)

5. IF ASKED ABOUT UNDERHILL CABLE, YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT
IT WAS IN NO SENSE A "SPECIAL REPORT" NOR DOES IT PRESAGE
ANY CHANGE IN U.S. POLICIES TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA. CABLE
WAS MERELY ONE OF MANY THAT ARE CONSTANTLY BEING EXCHANGED
BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND FIELD IN NORMAL, ONGOING PROCESS OF
CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND
AMBASSADORS ABROAD. LATTER ARE ALWAYS EXPECTED, AND
INDEED ENCOURAGED, TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS FREELY AT
ALL TIMES ON TOPICS OF THEIR OWN CHOICE.

6. PLEASE REPORT REACTION TO ANY APPROACH YOU MAY MAKE.

VANCE

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